

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Tuesday - 31 March 1959

25X1A 1. [] in DD/P [] called in connection with an article which appeared in the magazine, National Review, which indicated that the U. S. Government had in its possession a list of 300 American prisoners held by the Chinese Communists. This list was supposed to have been obtained from a Japanese repatriate. General Erskine's office has advised [] "Senator McManus" (this is probably Robert McManus, a staff member of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee who is writing a book on China) had asked Erskine's office to check on the validity of this article within the Government and with the publishers. Erskine's office queried Mr. Buckley of National Review who indicated that he could not reveal the source of his information, but that it came from an agent of CIA. Erskine's office is indicating to Mr. McManus that information of this sort has been put out periodically, but there is no real truth to it. However, they are concerned since they may have to show Mr. McManus the correspondence from Buckley containing reference to CIA. [] to alert us in the event we are called in connection with this. 25X1A

STATOTHR 2. Richard Bray on the staff of the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Monetary Affairs called again in connection with [] STATOTHR [] Bray said their staff is concentrating on []

STATOTHR [] Bray has two questions for us - whether the company is a legitimate business enterprise or a mechanism of the Agency and whether OSS files [] covering this period contain any information pertaining to [] 25X1A STATOTHR surplus property activities. He added that if the company were not an Agency organization his Subcommittee was going to investigate it thoroughly. [] 25X1A is working on this and will check with [] desk for any information they may have.

25X1A 3. Richard Arens, Staff Director of HCUA, called to say that the Committee had printed a sizeable number of copies of [] testimony. He offered the Agency as many copies as we might wish for our purposes - up to 3000. Mr. [] (SR) is checking with PP and other offices to determine our interest in obtaining copies. 25X1C

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4. In connection with a memorandum dated 23 March 1959 from Mr. Helms to the Director concerning our interest in [redacted]

[redacted] Mr. [redacted] indicated that the Director was reluctant to talk with Senator J. W. Fulbright (D., Ark.) on the bill until we had checked with the Bureau of the Budget and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on its status and determined whether the State Department would object to a call from the Director to Fulbright urging action on the measure. We shall make these contacts.

Mr. [redacted] also commented on the Director's reaction to the request of Bob Smart, Chief Counsel of the House Armed Services Committee, for a tabulation of the NIEs for 1958. The Director wishes to talk with Mr. Warner and Mr. Kent on this before deciding whether to make them available.

5. Talked with Roland Severy (Bureau of the Budget) on the status of the State Department's omnibus bill. Severy indicated that a number of amendments to S. 443 are contemplated, however, these are relatively noncontroversial and Severy still expects action on the bill. However, he was unable to predict when this action would occur.

6. Delivered to Ken BeLieu the corrected transcript of the Agency briefing of the Preparedness Subcommittee on 18 March and the Director's memorandum to Senator Lyndon B. Johnson (D., Tex.) containing the list of consultants requested by the Chairman during the briefing. BeLieu mentioned that he had received a call from the Director yesterday in connection with a Symington letter. BeLieu asked to have Mr. Warner drop by to see him on this. (He specifically stated that he did not wish to discuss the matter on the telephone.)

7. Delivered to the office of Congressman Melvin Price (D., Ill.) a letter transmitting copies of P.L. 253 - 80th Congress and P.L. 110 - 81st Congress and a Personnel Office brochure. These materials will be used by Mr. Price's office in replying to a request from a high school student for materials on CIA. Mention was made of Mr. Ransom's book as a good source document, and Mr. Price's secretary commented that Ransom had worked on Mr. Price's staff on a part-time basis sometime back.

8. Left with Ben Mandel, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee staff, the unclassified list of "leftwing" Hungarian language publications printed in the United States and Canada. These had been requested by Mrs. Call of the Subcommittee staff in a call which was received in EE Division. It was suggested that future requests of this type be directed to the Office of Legislative Counsel.

I referred to the conversation between Mr. Warner and Mr. Sourwine, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee staff, concerning [redacted]

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25X1C (Mandel had raised a question [] at about the same time Sourwine
called on it). Mandel was aware of that conversation and said they were not
25X1C pursuing the matter further. Mandel also mentioned in passing the splash
given [] in the magazine and the fact that a well-trained group was
being sent to the Vienna Youth Festival.

25X1C 9. Talked with [] desk and [] of the 25X1A
25X1C Security Office concerning [] (See Journal of 30 March.) Additional
information will be sought from the Office of Personnel and [] desk. 25X1A
(A detailed memorandum will be prepared on this subject.)

SIGNED

[] 25X1A
Assistant to the Legislative Counsel

cc: DD/S

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